valid passport have been apprehended in the border area of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

(b) to (d) However, interrogation of the Bangladeshi nationals arrested on the Indo-Pak border has revealed that most of them are illiterate or poorly educated and have been allured by touts/agents to go to Pakistan for better livelihood. No such information has come to light to link them with ISI activities. The arrested Bangladeshi nationals are deported to Bangladesh after ascertaining that there are no cases pending against them.

Loss of property and human lives due to Floods

2282. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who died and expected property loss on account of fury of rampaging floods in Bengal, Assam and Bihar this year;

(b) whether every year almost same situation is faced by lakhs of people taking shelter in camps and surging floods entering their huts/ homes; and

(c) the steps proposed to control such floods by inter-connections of rivers at the earliest or by taking other measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) 251 persons lost their lives due to floods in Assam and 708 in Bihar. The Government of Assam have assessed the damage at Rs. 1915.67 crore and Bihar at Rs. 10,790.67 crore. Government of West Bengal have not reported any loss of life or property.

(b) and (c) States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are perennially flood prone State. Ministry of Water Resources, the nodal Ministry, on the directions of the Hon'ble

Prime Minister, has recently set up a Task Force for suggesting short term and long term flood control measures as also the sources of funding. The Government intends to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers of the country starting with Southern rivers in a fully consultative manner.

Loss due to floods

2283. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many parts of Bihar, North East, Orissa, etc., were inundated by floods during July, 2004;

(b) if so, the details of the loss of lives, property and crops;

(c) the reasons for not taking adequate steps to control floods and prevent loss of lives and property; and

(d) the steps being taken to control floods in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Many parts of the country experienced flood during the current South-West Monsoon Season including the States of Assam, Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) The details, as per the reports received from the States, are enclosed as Statement (*See* below)

(c) and (d) Ministry of Water Resources, the nodal Ministry for flood control, have been taking various measures for flood control from time to time in consultation with the States vulnerable to floods. That Ministry, on the directions of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, has recently set up a Task Force for suggesting both short-term and long-term measures as also the sources of funding for flood management/ erosion control.